

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated in the following List of Claims. This list replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1-35. (Canceled)

36. (Currently Amended) In a process for purifying a hydride gas by removing contaminant oxygen from said hydride gas which comprises the step of contacting said hydride gas with a reduced metal oxide, the improvement which comprises:

contacting said hydride gas with a reduced metal oxide carried on a porous support, wherein the reduced metal oxide carried on the porous support is selected from the group consisting of manganese oxide impregnated on porous carbon, manganese oxide impregnated on or porous activated alumina, and an alkali metal oxide impregnated on porous activated alumina, and an alkaline earth metal oxide impregnated on [[a]] porous activated alumina.

37. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 36 wherein the alkali metal is selected from the group consisting of cesium, potassium and sodium.

38. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 36 wherein a desiccant is employed to assist in the removal of water, if generated, in the ~~step of~~ removing of the contaminant oxygen.

39. (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 36 wherein the metal oxide is manganese oxide and the manganese oxide is impregnated on activated alumina.

40. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 36 wherein the metal oxide is manganese oxide, ~~and it~~ the manganese oxide is impregnated on a carbon support, and a desiccant is included to remove any water that may be generated during the removing of the contaminant oxygen.